

CODE OF ETHICS FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Any Person In Government Service Should:

Put loyalty to the highest moral principles and to country above loyalty to persons, party, or Government department.

Uphold the Constitution, laws, and legal regulations of the United States and all governments therein and never be a party to their evasion.

Give a full day's labor for a full day's pay; giving to the performance of his duties his earnest effort and best thought.

Seek to find and employ more efficient and economical ways of getting tasks accomplished.

Never discriminate unfairly by the dispensing of special favors or privileges to anyone, whether for remuneration or not; and never accept, for himself or his family, favors or benefits under circumstances which might be construed by reasonable persons as influencing the performance of his governmental duties.

Make no private promises of any kind binding upon the duties of office, since a Government employee has no private word which can be binding on public duty.

Engage in no business with the Government, either directly or indirectly, which is inconsistent with the conscientious performance of his governmental duties.

Never use any information coming to him confidentially in the performance of governmental duties as a means for making private profit.

Expose corruption wherever discovered.

Uphold these principles, ever conscious that public office is a public trust.

(This Code of Ethics was agreed to by the House of Representatives and the Senate as House Concurrent Resolution 175 in the Second Session of the 85th Congress. The Code applies to all Government Employees and Office Holders.)

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UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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DEPARTMENTAL CIRCULAR 982

TO HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND INDEPENDENT ESTABLISHMENTS

SUBJECT: CODE OF ETHICS FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICE

The Congress of the United States has established "a charter of conduct against which those in public service may measure their own actions and upon which they may be judged by those whom they serve." The quotation is from the committee report which brought the charter of conduct to the attention of the Senate. The charter, entitled Code of Ethics for Government Service, was stated in House Concurrent Resolution 175 agreed to on July 11, 1958.

The Code of Ethics should be brought to the attention of all persons now in Government, in whatever capacity. The Commission has been asked to suggest that the agencies accomplish this goal by publishing the Code in agency administrative issuances, available to all personnel. Also, the Code should be included in the orientation or indoctrination exercises for all persons who enter the Government.

The Code of Ethics is reproduced on the back of this page and will also be published in Chapter C2 of the Federal Personnel Manual.



Warren B. Irons
Executive Director

Departmental Circular No. 981 was limited to
Heads of agencies

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Office of Personnel